



Customer No.: 26308

*Patent*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Nelson et al.

Docket No.: 9473.18472

Serial No.: 10/718,254

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: 20 November 2003

Group Art Unit: 3743

Title: Devices, Systems, and Methods to Fixate Tissue within the Regions of the Body, Such as the Pharyngeal Conduit

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Please amend the application prior to the first Office Action as follows: